

Questions and Answers from the “What’s New with School Nutrition Webinar” June 2014

Q1: Can you expand a little further on the Whole Grain Waiver? Can we serve a white pasta product if it is not accepted as a whole grain product?

A1: This flexibility from the USDA does allow schools to serve enriched pasta products instead of whole grain pastas if student acceptability is low for dishes that were previously popular when they were made with enriched pasta. In order to make this substitution, a waiver is required from the State Agency. WI-DPI is working on this waiver and will announce when it is available. The USDA guidance memo can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/flexibility-whole-grain-rich-pasta-school-years-2014-15-and-2015-16>.

Q2: Is the whole grain waiver just for pasta? We are successfully using those, but having challenges finding a whole grain English muffin.

A2: Yes, the flexibility related to serving enriched grain products instead of whole grain-rich product applies only to pasta. In order to serve enriched pasta instead of whole grain-rich pasta, a waiver from DPI will be required and we are still working on developing that documentation.

Q3: Does CN18 refer to NutriKids software system?

A3: All approved USDA Software is required to have the updated Child Nutrition 18 Database within it by no later than July 1, 2014. Since NutriKids is approved software it applies to NutriKids. Remember that you only need USDA approved software if you chose to submit a nutrient analysis during the menu certification process. This is optional. If you are conducting nutrient analysis at your SFA to check to see if menus meet the nutrient specifications it is not mandatory to have approved software with the updated database.

Q4: Regarding selling food in schools, what about a school trading post where they use reward tickets. Do they have to follow the Smart Snacks guidelines? Administrators think they are exempt because they are technically not selling the food items.

A4: The USDA recently clarified this for us in the updated Q&A document [SP 23-2014](#). On page 8 under Fundraisers, Question #1 they noted that a fundraiser is any event in which currency/tokens/tickets etc. are exchanged for a product.

Q5: What about a grade level such as 4th grade selling popcorn every Friday for raising money for a trip; is a grade level not considered a school organization?

A5: At this point DPI is leaving the definition of an organization up to the SFA. However, organizations usually have officers like presidents, secretary, treasurers etc. The fundraising exemptions are for infrequent fundraisers. Therefore a fundraiser that takes place every Friday could not be exempted. USDA just came out with guidance that stated states must set timeframes for the exempted fundraisers. The DPI is working on setting up such a timeframe and will notify schools when they have. Please consider finding a popcorn product that would meet the Smart Snack nutritional standards so that it could be sold without an exemption.

Q6: Will there be upcoming training for helping to reduce sodium in our school meals?

A6: Yes, tips for decreasing sodium in school meals will be covered in the Lunch in a Nutshell classes through SNSDC. We will also discuss planning balanced meals, as schools are not required to analyze their menus on a weekly basis to check the sodium status. The SNT will also be developing training on sodium in the next coming school year. For more resources check out the USDA’s Sodium Reduction webpage <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/menu-planning/sodium-reduction>.